

**Environmental Restoration (ER) Project  
Cerro Grande Fire  
Accelerated Action Information Sheet**

**Potential Release Site (PRS) 02-011(d)  
Building Outfall**

*Technical Area (TA)-2, located in Los Alamos Canyon, housed several reactors, including the Omega West and Water Boiler Reactors. The reactors were shutdown, removed from the nuclear facilities list, and placed into the Laboratory's Decontamination and Decommissioning program.*

**PRS History:** PRS 02-011(d) is Outfall No. 019, permitted under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System. The outfall discharges from a 4-inch vitrified clay pipe (PRS 02-011(c)). The pipe and outfall are likely the route through which liquid effluent from an ion exchange system in Building 2-44 was discharged. Primary cooling water would circulate through this exchange system to remove contaminants. Periodically, these ion exchangers would be regenerated by flushing clean water through them. This flushed effluent water was discharged directly to Los Alamos Creek prior to 1963. From 1963 to 1968, the effluent water was held in three 1200-gallon storage tanks (PRSs 02-004(a), (b), and (c)) until short-lived radioactive constituents decayed or were diluted to a safe level before being pumped into the creek. After 1968, these effluents were transferred to the three 1200-gallon storage tanks and then transported to TA-50 for disposal. High levels of chromium have been found in soils on the creek bank near PRS 02-011(d). The storage tanks were removed in a decontamination and decommissioning action in June 2000.



PRS 02-011(d) is not listed on the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments module to the Laboratory's Hazardous Waste Facility permit. The ER Project has not proposed the site for no further action.

**Issues of Concern:** The area upstream of PRS 02-011(d) burned during the Cerro Grande fire. The intensity of upstream burn was low to moderate. The site has a surface component, and there is potential for erosion or scouring. The site has no debris that could enter the flood watercourse, nor are there any structures that could interfere with or be impacted by flood mitigation measures.

**Accelerated Action Status:** PRS 02-011(d) was evaluated after the Cerro Grande fire. ER Project personnel collected 3 soil samples from below the outfall. The data has not yet been validated or reviewed.

**Related Documents:**  
"Solid Waste Management Units Reports," Vol. I of IV (TA-0 through TA-9) LANL Report LA-UR-90-3400, revised November 1990.  
"RFI Work Plan for Operable Unit 1098 (TA-2, 41)," LANL Report LA-UR-92-3825, June 1993.